

NEWTOWN NEWS

Nā te Whare Hapori o Newtown / Brought to you by the Newtown
Community & Cultural Centre

HARATUA / May 2022

Migratory Birds Edition



Tō koutou māhāhina
hapori: mā Newtown, nā
ngā tāngata o Newtown /
Your community zine: for
Newtown, by Newtowners

Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora tātou / hey everyone!

This edition of our lil' zine is on the kaupapa of 'International Migratory Bird Day' (14th Haratua / May - a VERY important date, obviously be sure to put it in yer diary asap). Migration, and the determination that it requires, is a pretty incredible thing. Birds travels thousands upon thousands of kilometres - some of them not even stopping for a lil' breather along the way - for better conditions. Some learn these migrations from a parent or flock member, some just seem to KNOW where to go. I read this page which was an interesting starter to learning about migration to and from Aotearoa: teara.govt.nz/bird-migration

Migration is pretty incredible across the whole of nature - for example, monarch butterflies migrate almost 5000km from as far north as Canada to as far south as Mexico - but as their life spans are so short, the migration covers several generations with some butterflies never seeing any the end destination. I love this post and poem about monarchs: bit.ly/3vmZxxJ

Human migration is just as beautiful and full of determination. From the first incredible ocean voyage of Kupe to Aotearoa, to refugee background people getting away from war or persecution for safety here, migration is a real part of Aotearoa and Newtown's story.

I was very privileged to migrate here from London with a kiwi ex-partner (error haha). I was born in Australia, grew up in the UK and came to Aotearoa about 7 years ago (I intended to stay a year, but ending up falling a little in love with this whenua).

I'm not quite like the birds that come and go to this land though, leaving little trace - I do think that for those of us who have chosen to make this land home need to remember that this land is Māori land and always will be. We're here as Tangata Tiriti - partners to Māori under the Tiriti o Waitangi and because of that we have responsibilities. This is an awesome article about some peoples' experience as Tangata Tiriti and what it means to be in this space: bit.ly/39n4jCZ

So, if you're a migrant, what do you do to be a responsible Tangata Tiriti?

Ngā mihi,
Ellie - ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Cover image by Eryn Gribble (kaiwhakahaere / coordinator extraordinaire at the Community Centre!) See 'Seagull Migrations' later in the issue to find out more about Jonathan on the cover. The heading font also Eryn's handwriting - wowzers what a creative type!

Thanks for the support of our amazing local businesses! Please support 'em back!



Could this be your business?! We're looking for a new sponsor for the Newtown News. Contact me!

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre.

Notorious NEWZowner

BRONWYN HAINES MET WITH NUREDDIN ABDURAHMAN ON ZOOM, TO KŌRERO FOOTBALL, MIGRATION, FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

Newtown is a big part of life for Nureddin. Though he lives in Strathmore, you'll often find him here, whether at the Aman Centre, the veggie market, the football field or at Peoples Coffee.

Nureddin grew up in a small town called Ejaji, near Addis Ababa, the Capital of Ethiopia. As school stopped at year 8 in Ejaji, he had to move to Addis to continue his education. After an election in 2005 the politics in the region became

unstable and it was unsafe for him to stay in Ethiopia. He had met his wife, an Ethiopian New Zealander whose family were close to his, and came to live in Wellington shortly afterward.



When he first arrived in New Zealand, Nureddin worked many hard jobs on low pay, working evenings while studying full time at Victoria University of Wellington to achieve a masters degree and support his family.

Now he is kept busy with his three children, who are 11, 9 and 3, and by multiple projects in the community. He's part of the group which set up the Aman Islamic Centre, which operates out of a space behind Rainbow Bridge in Newtown. At first, he says, it was a struggle to get 15 people to register. Now the rooms are always full, with people from different cultures coming to pray, learn, play and connect with each other. "It's more than just prayer" he says, and describes the community as a family who support each other with raising children and life in New Zealand.

Nureddin is also the chair of the executive team behind the African Community Office in Newtown, which supports people with issues from immigration to mental health. He's a keen business person too, running an import-export company out of Kilbirnie. They import from Turkey, Dubai and Ethiopia, and trade in rugs, housewares, cosmetics and fragrances.

It's hard to believe he has any spare time, but if he does it's spent at Peoples Coffee, or playing football, watching football, talking about football or teaching his kids football. He also loves exploring Wellington, and says we don't know how blessed we are to live here. The beaches and playgrounds are favourites, and he loves visiting the zoo to feel close to the animals, which remind him of his childhood in Ethiopia.

Nureddin says Newtown is unique because it's truly multi-cultural and has a sense of community. He mentions the way people smile at each other here, and how those little connections make a lot of difference. His message for Newtowners? "Let's keep Newtown such an amazing place. Let's work together to make the suburb more inclusive and more vibrant. This is a great suburb. Keep smiling, we've got a lot of things to smile about."

SEAGULL Migrations

BY ERYN GRIBBLE

Every holiday I go on – I have a mascot, they take better pictures than me – and as the holiday goes on they develop a little personality and “come alive”, creating a few funny situations (and creating weird looks from others as I’m a grown-ass woman carrying a soft toy around). Jonathan features on the cover this month. Jonathan is my migratory seagull mascot from a recent trip to central Otago, he comes complete with an obnoxious squawk when you press his chest!

I went down South to do the Otago Central rail trial bike ride with my family and with Jonathan cabled tied to the front of my bike in-between the handle bars. We did over 300kms (which is a faux-brag cos for most of it I used the pedal assist of an E-bike!) A highlight of the trip was a boat trip to the Haupapa / Tasman Glacier – which is Aotearoa’s largest glacier. We got pretty close to the huge cliff like faces of ice and I touched a giant iceberg. It was all pretty majestic (and cold)! Haupapa is about 23.5km in length, sadly, (what with the world being on fire) – it’s retreating a lot each year. Between 2000-2008 it’s receded 3.7km. It was pretty sobering being there and knowing that one day it’ll be gone.

It wasn’t all doom and gloom though – the Dunstan lake bike trial was epic – linking the lil’ towns of Cromwell and Clyde, showing off the natural beauty of the region. You ride around the rocky edge of the lake on platforms that are attached to the cliffs! The 2.2km climb up the Cairnmuir ladder is even a bit of a workout on the e-bike! More surprises as you’re biking along and BAM you’re on the lawn of a winery. Not a bad place to stop! Not a bad lil’ trail. And as the pics show – Jonathan loved his migration!



Migratory Bird Quiz

1. What’s the longest distance that the eastern bar-tailed godwit flies non-stop on its migration to NZ?

- a. 1,000 km
- b. 7,000 km
- c. 11,000 km
- d. 23,000 km

2. There’s only a few native NZ birds that migrate out of Aotearoa. Which of these is one?

- a. Pīpīwharaua – shining cuckoo
- b. Hīhī – stitchbird
- c. Tūī
- d. Riroriro – grey warbler

3. Some migratory birds travel with an experienced leaders, others are programmed for these journeys. Which of these theories about how birds migrate is NOT true?

- a. They use the stars and constellations
- b. They can see magnetic fields because of a protein in their eyes
- c. They smell stuff in the air
- d. They can feel radio waves because bones in their wings act as an antennae

Answers below!

1 - c, 11,000km. They fly for 8 days non stop from Alaska to Aotearoa. 2 - a. The Pīpīwharaua goes to the warmth of the western Pacific for winter! 3 - d. This one is made up but omg birds can see magnetic fields how amazing is that.

ARCTIC TERN

By Naira de Gracia

This beautiful embroidery was made by Naira, at the Newtown Craftivism Collective, as part of a fully embroidered zine about migration made by members of the Wellington Latin community.



FIND YOUR NEXT READ



WITH TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O OMĀRŌRŌ /
NEWTOWN LIBRARY



Sleeping with Stones by Serie Barford

Library link: bit.ly/3OhYwyi

Review by Jay Nieuwland

Illustration by Milly Hampton

Recently I've been working my way through all the books longlisted for this year's Mary and Peter Biggs Award for Poetry. *Sleeping with Stones* by Serie Barford has been one of the stand outs. These short poems (most not more than a page long) trace the experience of grieving the loss of a loved one over course of a year. As we read, we piece together the context that the narrator's romantic partner passed away after falling from a cliff at Piula in Samoa, possibly intentionally.



Barford doesn't overwhelm us with emotion. These are quiet poems which give us glimpses of happy memories, moments of reflection, and scenes from everyday life. The world keeps moving on even after such an immense loss and we are lucky that Barford gives us access to these intimate reminiscences. I hadn't read any of her work before this, but I will definitely be borrowing the library's copies of Barford's previous books in the next few weeks.

Rangatahi takeOVER - apply now!

We're really excited to be doing another RANGATAHI / YOUTH TAKEOVER of the Hereturikōkā / August Newtown News. Intermediate / High School aged Newtowners can apply now!

What's involved? You'll be part of a youth editorial team, putting together the Newtown News for August, getting youth voices out to Newtown. You'll be guided by local artist and zine maker Kristine and the usual editor, Ellie. There will be around 4 workshops after school in June and July and some mahi will be needed in your own time to write /research articles.

What will you get? Your writing & art in print - we print 750 copies and deliver them to houses, cafes and public spaces in Newtown. You'll also get a chance to learn some new art skills, have fun, eat snacks and finally, a **\$50 New World voucher!**

Interested? Email ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz or call 04 389 4786 and tell us why you're keen.



TOFU with BRONWYN!

BY BRONWYN HAINES

This is the second of three installments of Brownwyn demystifying tofu - YUM!

Marinated Oven-baked tofu

1/4 CUP SOY SAUCE
1/4 CUP WATER
1 CLOVE GARLIC, CRUSHED OR FINELY CHOPPED
1 TEASPOON GRATED GINGER
A SPLASH OF SRIRACHA OR HOT SAUCE
2 TABLESPOONS NEUTRAL OIL
1 TABLESPOON VINEGAR - RICE-WINE OR WHITE VINEGAR WORK WELL, OR TRY BALSAMIC FOR A TWIST.
2 TEASPOONS CORN STARCH/TAPIOCA FLOUR
1 PACK OF TOFU

I often leave it overnight in the fridge. If your marinade doesn't cover your tofu cubes entirely, mix them up half way through soaking, flipping the uncovered bits so that they become covered.

When you are ready to cook your tofu, heat the oven to 180 degrees. On a flat tray, spread out the cubes of tofu so there is space between them. I use a reusable baking mat under mine, but you could put them directly onto an oiled tray. Bake in the middle of the oven for 20-30 minutes depending on how crispy/chewy you like your tofu.

Method

Mix all the ingredients except the tofu in a shallow container (tupperware works well). Drain the tofu and dry it as per the above recipe. Chop into cubes about 2.5 cm wide/long/deep. Soak the tofu in the marinade for at least an hour -

This is delicious with pretty much everything too! I often throw a tray of cauliflower/oil/salt/pepper in the oven with the tofu and serve it all with mayo or chilli oil or both. Check out the next Newtown News for a final tofu recipe!



We've spotted a couple of people giving strangers a hand restarting cars on the Newtown Community Bulletin Facebook group - it's awesome to know that our community will show up if you need a hand. Join the group and see for yourself (just search **Newtown Community Bulletin** on Facebook!)



What's the Happs?

At the Community Centre,
2a Green St

Make and Mending Mondays! Every second Monday, 10am (2nd, 16th, 30th May)

Repair – don't replace! Darn don't dump! Join us to get your mending done in company – we'll join for an hour or so, but you can stay as long as ya need. We have a selection of fabrics, needles, threads, bits and bobs...bit.ly/3kccLHu

Come hang out, do a thing, grab something from the fridge - weekdays, 9am-4.30pm

We miss ya'll! Tō Tātou Wāhi / the community centre's Drop In space is here for you. We've got Pac Man! Free Tea/Coffee. A chill space to read a book or jump on our wifi and do some work "from home"! The community fridge is often stocked with goodies from Baobab and Peoples coffee – have some noms and help minimise food waste! Or just pop up for a natter and to see what else we've got goin' on!

Be a part of Newtown's history!

We are putting together a time capsule to be placed under the floor of our newly renovated centre: we need your help to fill it with anything that is Newtown related! Wanna put something in to be opened up in 50 years' time?! info@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Free Lawyer - 1st & 3rd Weds of the month, 11am-12pm

Free legal advice from Community Law – no appointment needed!

NEWTOWN HALL

Crop Swap Haratua / May, Saturday 14th, 10am – 12pm

Newtown Crop Swap is a place where people can meet and share what they have in surplus from the kitchen and garden. The meet is not a direct swap, it's an unstructured 'share,' where you just bring what you have and take what you need! Feel free to come along even if you don't have anything to swap! Any questions? Contact info@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Everybody Dance, Mondays, 5.30-6.30pm

Learn some dance skills and get your groove on. Open to all levels! \$2. Questions? Email info@newtowncommunity.org.nz

At Smart Newtown,
9-11 Constable Street

Digital Photos + Photo Editing Basics

Wednesday, 11 May 9.30am - 11.30am

This class will explain how to transfer photos from your camera or phone to a computer (and show you how to share those photos), while Photo Editing Basics will cover using PIXLR Editor, an online photo editing tool, to make changes to your digital pics. Sign up [here](#).

Using Google Drive

Wednesday, 18 May 9.30am - 11.30am

Learn how to use Google Drive, a free service that lets your store files online and access them anywhere, and provides web-based applications for creating spreadsheets, forms, and documents. Sign up [here](#).

Intro to Smartphones + Intro to Apps

Wednesday, 25 May 9.30am - 11.30am

Explains the basics of using a smartphone, such as keeping track of your battery and copying & pasting text, as well as how to install, delete, and use apps. Sign up [here](#).

More classes...coming in June

(but you can sign up now)! Each class will cover a different topic – Like what? Creating a CV & Applying for a job online, Computer Basics 1 + 2, Word Essentials and Intro to Spreadsheets. For more info and to sign up: bit.ly/3xnPUAf.

ELSEWHERE

CAB Newtown – now open for face-to-face support again!

Need help understanding your rights? Some friendly support around issues such as housing, immigration, work? Go see the friendly team at The Citizens Advice Bureau. They are now open to the public, head along to Level 1 Riddiford House, 94 Riddiford Street in Newtown between the hours of 9.30am-3pm Monday – Thursday and on Friday from 9.30am until 12 noon.

GET in touch

www.newtowncommunity.org.nz
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